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simplified by an analytical table of contents and by short summaries at the conclusion of each chapter.

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*Washington, D. C.*

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**Poor, Charles Lane.** *The Solar System.* Pp. x, 310. Price, \$2.00. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1908.

The character of this book is most clearly stated in the words of the author's preface, "An attempt was made to present the subject in untechnical language and without the use of mathematics, to show by what steps the precise knowledge of to-day has been reached; and to explain the marvelous results of modern methods and modern observations." The book therefore assumes a double character; for the student it becomes an unusually attractive text of both general and historical character; for the lay mind it represents the most readable exposition of the solar system yet published.

Most of the interest in the volume will naturally center round the discussion of Mars and its canals, topics which receive relatively more space than strict proportion would allot. The author fully justifies this action, however, by the admirably clear and forceful way in which he handles the much debated question. After carefully following the analysis of evidence for and against the existence of great and elaborate canal systems on our neighboring planet, no one could fail to agree with the conclusion that the objective reality of the canals has not yet been unquestionably established.

Frequent well-chosen illustrations add to the value of this volume which can be most highly commended both as a text-book and as a general exposition of the most important of astronomical phenomena.

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**Russell, Charles Edward.** *The Uprising of the Many.* Pp. xxiv, 364. Price, \$1.50. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1907.

To the student of twentieth century democracy, this is a fascinating book. Mr. Russell has journeyed around the world, and has viewed, with the eyes of a journalist and socialist, what is newest in the age-long war against want and misery and oppression. First come co-operation and municipal trading in Great Britain; then a report on government railroads on the Continent, combined with a slashing attack on our system of private ownership. The interesting political and economic experiments of the vigorous Swiss democracy occupy the next three chapters. Plague, famine and pestilence in India, presented in some appalling figures, are credited, not to Malthus, but to autocracy and to the caste system which, we are warned, springs up wherever there is great power in the hands of a few men. The chapters on Japan are illuminating, punctuated as they are with this often-repeated warning of the yellow peril: "She has a government that does not hesitate to supplant individual with government enterprise, and she has a